Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1–41. Canceled

Claim 42. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises a first subunit comprising at least one copy of a receptor binding domain of a ligand, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, and the multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of ~~the~~ a receptor binding domain of a ligand, wherein the multimerizing component is an immunoglobulin-derived domain.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 42, wherein the receptor binding domains of the first and second subunits are the receptor binding domain from the same ligand.

Claim 44. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 42, wherein the receptor binding domain of the first subunit is a receptor binding domain derived from a different ligand ~~then~~ than the receptor binding domain of the second subunit.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein the receptor binding domain of the first and second subunit is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein the receptor binding domain of the first and second subunit is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-2.

Claim 47. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein the receptor binding domain of the first subunit is the fibrinogen domain ~~if~~ is angiopoietin-1 and the receptor binding domain of the second subunit is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-2.

Claim 48.(Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein the receptor binding domain of the first subunit is the fibrinogen domain ~~if~~ is angiopoietin-2 and the receptor binding domain of the second subunit is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises a first subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-1, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, and the multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-1.

Claim 50. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises a first subunit comprising at least one copy of a receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-2, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, and the multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of angiopoietin-2.

Claims 51-52. (Canceled)

Claim 53. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of the EPH family of ligands.

Claim 54. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein the ligands are selected from the group consisting of the EPH family of ligands.

Claims 55-57. (Canceled)

Claim 58. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~55, 56, or 57~~ 42, wherein the immunoglobulin derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the ~~constant region domain of IgG, the~~ Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.

Claim 59. (Previously presented) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 42, 43, or 44.

Claim 60. (Previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 59, wherein the fusion polypeptide is multimerized.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the multimerized fusion polypeptide of claim 60.

Claim 62. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 61, wherein the multimer is a dimer.

Claim 63. (Previously presented) A vector which comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 42, 43, or 44.

Claim 64. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 42, 43, or 44, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 65. (Previously presented) A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 64, in a suitable host cell.

Claim 66. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 65, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.

Claim 67. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is *E. coli.*

Claim 68. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.

Claim 69. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.

Claim 70. (Previously presented) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 66, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.

Claim 71. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide, wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises more than one copy of a receptor binding domain of a ligand, each copy fused in tandem, and wherein either the N-terminal or the C-terminal ends of the tandem receptor binding domains is fused to a multimerizing component, wherein the multimerizing component is an immunoglobulin-derived domain.

Claim 72. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~74~~ 71, wherein the receptor binding domains are fused contiguously.

Claim 73. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~74 or 75~~ 71 or 72, wherein the ligand is not a member of the EPH family of ligands.

Claim 74. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~74 or 75~~ 71 or 72, wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.

Claim 75. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~74 or 75~~ 71 or 72, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin derived domain.

Claim 76. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~75~~ 71, wherein the immunoglobulin derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the ~~constant region domain of IgG, the~~ Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.

Claim 77. (Previously presented) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim~~s~~ 71.

Claim 78. (Previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, wherein the fusion polypeptide is multimerized.

Claim 79. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the multimerized fusion polypeptide of claim 78.

Claim 80. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 79, wherein the multimerized fusion polypeptide is a dimer.

Claim 81. (Previously presented) A vector which comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 71.

Claim 82. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 83. (Previously presented) A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 82, in a suitable host cell.

Claim 84. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 83, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.

Claim 85. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is E. coli.

Claim 86. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.

Claim 87. (Previously presented) The host-vector system of claim 84, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.

Claim 88. (Previously presented) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 83, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.